Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following complete list:

1. (Previously presented) A method for comparing a query against data contained within a database comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving said query;

(b) extracting a plurality of attributes from a plurality of potential match areas from said query;

(c) converting said plurality of attributes from said query, using at least one linguistic pattern matching analytical tool, into a plurality of linguistic pattern strings;

(d) comparing, using at least one user selectable index property, said plurality of linguistic pattern strings with at least one stored linguistic pattern string from at least one stored attribute contained within said database for providing a set of matches;

(e) analyzing said set of matches, using said at least one linguistic pattern matching analytical tool, to provide at least one set of matched attributes;

(f) combining all of said at least one set of matched attributes to provide a combined result; and

(g) wherein at least one of the actions of receiving, extracting, converting, comparing, analyzing, and combining is implemented using at least one data processing system.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein:

said query includes a party's name; and

said database includes names of parties ~~approved for~~ restricted from receiving certain goods.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, further including the step of filtering said combined result according to at least one user selectable criteria.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of employing at least one of a Metaphone based analysis, a Phonex based analysis, a Soundex based analysis, an N-gram based analysis, an edit-distance based analysis and a dictionaries based analysis.

9. (Previously presented) A system for comparing a query against data contained within at least one database comprising:

(a) a central processing unit having at least one electronic communications port for receiving said query, wherein said central processing unit is attached to said at least one database;

(b) at least one extraction tool accessible to said central processing unit for extracting a plurality of attributes from a plurality of user selectable match areas from said query;

(c) at least one linguistic pattern analytical tool having characteristics at least some of which are user selectable and being accessible to said central processing unit for converting said plurality of attributes from said query into a plurality of linguistic pattern strings, and for comparing said plurality of linguistic pattern strings with at least one stored linguistic pattern string contained within at least one of said database for providing a set of matches;

(d) said at least one linguistic pattern analytical tool accessible to said central processing unit for analyzing said set of matches to provide at least one set of matched attributes; and

(e) at least one combining tool accessible to said central processing unit for combining all of said at least one set of matched attributes to provide a combined result.

10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, further comprising at least one filtering tool accessible to said central processing unit for filtering said combined result according to at least one user selectable criteria.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein said at least one linguistic pattern analytical tool is comprised of at least one of a Metaphone based analysis, a Phonex based analysis, a Soundex based analysis, an N-gram based analysis, an edit-distance based analysis and a dictionaries based analysis.

13. (Previously presented) A computer program product for querying a database comprising a computer useable medium having a computer readable program code -executable on a computer system for performing the operations of:

(a) receiving a query;

(b) extracting a plurality of attributes from a plurality of user selectable match areas from said query;

(c) providing at least one linguistic pattern analytical tool having characteristics at least some of which are user selectable for converting information of a plurality of attributes from said query into a plurality of linguistic pattern strings;

(d) comparing, with at least one user selectable index property, said plurality of linguistic pattern strings with at least one stored linguistic pattern string contained within said database to provide a set of matches;

(e) analyzing by at least one user selectable preference said set of matches to provide at least one set of matched attributes; and

(f) combining all of said at least one set of matched attributes to provide a combined result.

14. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising computer readable code for filtering said combined result according to at least one user selectable criteria.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein said computer readable program code for converting said query into a plurality of linguistic pattern strings and for comparing said plurality of linguistic pattern strings with at least one stored linguistic pattern string contained within said database to provide a set of matches is comprised of at least one of a Metaphone based analysis code, Phonex based analysis code, Soundex based analysis code, N-gram based analysis code, edit-distance based analysis code and dictionaries based analysis code.

17. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method for comparing a query against data contained within a database comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving said query;

(b) extracting a plurality of attributes from a plurality of user selectable match areas from said query;

(c) converting said plurality of attributes, using a Metaphone based linguistic pattern analytical tool, into a plurality of Metaphone linguistic pattern strings;

(d) comparing, using at least one user selectable index property, at least one of said plurality of Metaphone linguistic pattern strings with said at least one stored linguistic pattern string contained within said database to provide a plurality of Metaphone matches;

(e) converting said plurality of attributes, using a Phonex based linguistic pattern analytical tool, into a plurality of Phonex linguistic pattern strings;

(f) comparing, using at least one user selectable index property, at least one of said plurality of Phonex linguistic pattern strings with said at least one stored linguistic pattern string contained within said database to provide a plurality of Phonex matches;

(g) converting said plurality of attributes, using a Soundex based linguistic pattern analytical tool, into a plurality of Soundex linguistic pattern strings;

(h) comparing, using at least one user selectable index property, at least one of said plurality of Soundex linguistic pattern strings with said at least one stored linguistic pattern string contained within said database to provide a plurality of Soundex matches;

(i) converting said plurality of attributes, using an N-gram based linguistic pattern analytical tool, into a plurality of N-gram linguistic pattern strings;

(j) comparing, using at least one user selectable index property, at least one of said plurality of N-gram linguistic pattern strings with at least one stored linguistic pattern string contained within said database to provide a plurality of N-gram matches;

(k) combining said plurality of Metaphone matches, said plurality of Phonex Matches, said plurality of Soundex matches, and said plurality of N-gram matches to form a set of combined matches;

(l) analyzing said set of matches using said Metaphone based linguistic pattern analytical tool, Phonex based linguistic pattern analytical tool, said Soundex based linguistic pattern analytical tool, an edit-distance based linguistic pattern analytical tool, and a dictionaries based linguistic pattern analytical tool to provide at least one set of matched attributes;

(m) combining said at least one set of matched attributes to provide a combined result; and

(l) wherein at least one of the actions of (a) through (m) above is implemented using at least one data processing system.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of potential match areas are user selectable.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said at least one linguistic pattern matching analytical tool used for converting has characteristics at least some of which are user selectable.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said comparing is by edit distance.

21. (Currently amended) A method for comparing a query against data contained within a database comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving said query;

wherein said query includes a party's name;

(b) extracting a plurality of attributes from a plurality of potential match areas from said query;

wherein said plurality of potential match areas are user selectable;

(c) converting said plurality of attributes from said query, using at least one linguistic pattern matching analytical tool, into a plurality of linguistic pattern strings;

wherein said at least one linguistic pattern matching analytical tool used for converting has characteristics at least some of which are user selectable;

(d) comparing, using at least one user selectable index property, said plurality of linguistic pattern strings with at least one stored linguistic pattern string from at least one stored attribute contained within said database for providing a set of matches;

(e) analyzing said set of matches, using said at least one linguistic pattern matching analytical tool, to provide at least one set of matched attributes;

(f) combining all of said at least one set of matched attributes to provide a combined result;

~~The method of claim 5, further comprising:~~

(g) monitoring information about said party;

(h) monitoring information in said database;

(i) responsive to any change to said party's information, automatically rescreening said party for determining whether said party is approved for receiving certain goods; and

(j) responsive to any change to said database information, automatically rescreening said party for determining whether said party is approved for receiving certain goods;

wherein said database includes names of parties restricted from receiving certain goods;

wherein at least one of the actions of receiving, extracting, converting, comparing, analyzing, and combining is implemented using at least one data processing system.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of filtering said combined result according to at least one user selectable criteria.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of employing a Metaphone based analysis, a Phonex based analysis, a Soundex based analysis, an Alphabetic N-gram based analysis, a Consonant N-gram based analysis, a Numeric N-gram based analysis, an Fdi N-gram based analysis, an Fml N-gram based analysis, an edit-distance based analysis and a dictionaries based analysis.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising designating, responsive to a match candidate containing an unusual word in an unusual words dictionary, said match candidate to be a match.